

PATENT
Serial No. 10/568,373
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-24 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', as well as deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-24 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggested adding headings to the specification. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the

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headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-7 and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4-7 and 16-19 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claims 4 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. Further, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the features of allowable claims 7 and 19, which have been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 8-12, 14-15 and 20-24 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 13.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

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presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due beyond the fee for one additional independent claim to be charged to the credit card as noted by the enclosed authorization. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

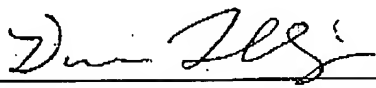
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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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December 11, 2006

Enclosure: New Abstract
Authorization to charge credit card \$200 for one
independent claims in excess of three (four total)

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